

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COLOMB 01456 230951Z

60

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4686

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USUN NEW YORK 448

C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 1456

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KS, CE

SUBJ: ROK VISIT BY ANURA BANDARANAIKE

KSREF: SEOUL 2983

1. DURING MEETING WITH VISITING ROK DELEGATION, CHARGE
LEARNED THAT DR CHO, ROK TRADE REP IN
COLOMBO IS ARRANGING MEETING WITH ANURA BANDARANAIKE
WITHOUT JAPANESE INTERCESSION. WE ARE TOLD CHO HAS
BEEN IN TOUCH DIRECTLY WITH BANDARANAIKE, HE HAS
EXPRESSED INTEREST IN MEETING AND IT IS EXPECTED TO TAKE
PLACE EITHER MORNING APRIL 24 OR APRIL 25.

2. ANURA BANDARANAIKE CLAIMS RESPONSIBILITY FOR
OB-
TAINING GSL APPROVAL FOR DPRK TO ACCREDIT NON-RESIDENT
AMBASSADOR TO GSL IN MARCH 1975 AFTER NORTH KOREAN
REPRESENTATION WAS SEVERED IN WAKE OF 1971 CEYLON
INSURGENCY. ANURA MAY NOW WELCOME INVITATION FROM
SEOUL TO VISIT SOUTH KOREA IN ORDER TO DEMONSTRATE
HIS IMPARTIALITY AND, IF HE CAN ACCEPT INVITATION,
THIS COULD HAVE FAVORABLE AFFECT ON ROK'S EFFORTS

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PAGE 02 COLOMB 01456 230951Z

TO OBTAIN EQUAL REPRESENTATION IN COLOMBO AT SOME

FUTURE DATE. ANURA'S INFLUENCE, HOWEVER, IS PROBABLY MARGINAL ON THIS ISSUE AND SHOULD NOT BE OVERESTIMATED.

3. DURING SAME MEETING, DR CHO MADE POINT THAT TRADE BALANCE BETWEEN ROK AND SRI LANKA RUNS ABOUT 100 TO ONE IN FORMER'S FAVOR, LARGELY BECAUSE OF LACK OF SRI LANKAN EXPORTS OF INTEREST TO ROK. CHARGE SUGGESTED THAT ROK EXPRESS WILLINGNESS TO CONSIDER POSSIBILITY OF JOINT VENTURES FOR SMALL EXPORT-ORIENTED INDUSTRIES HERE IN SRI LANKA AFTER PATTERN OF SEVERAL VERY SUCCESSFUL JOINT JAPANESE PROJECTS IN CERAMICS, TEXTILES, ETC. UNDER THESE ARRANGEMENTS, SRI LANKA PROVIDES SITE, BUILDING, SKILLED AND NOT OVERLY EXPENSIVE LABOR FORCE. FOREIGN PARTNER WOULD PROVIDE MACHINES AND MANAGEMENT, WITH RAW MATERIALS BEING IMPORTED. INVITATION TO ANURA TO VISIT SEOUL COULD BE COUCHED IN TERMS OF EXPLORING SUCH POSSIBILITIES. ROK ASSISTANCE MINISTER KIM CHUNG-TAI EXPRESSED INTEREST IN THIS APPROACH.

4. COMMENT: DR CHO POINTED OUT THAT SUCH SMALL SCALE JOINT VENTURES COULD FURNISH ROK WITH JUMPING OFF PLACE FOR EXPORTS TOWARD MIDDLE EAST, AS WELL AS, IN SOME COMMODITIES, TOWARDS EUROPE AND US. SEEMS TO US THAT BEST ARGUMENT FOR SOUTH OVER NORTH KOREA IS FORMER'S HIGHLY IMPRESSIVE INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY AND DEVELOPMENT, WHICH AMONG HIGHEST IN ASIA. A MODEST LOCAL INVESTMENT PROVIDING EMPLOYMENT FOR CEYLONESE WOULD FAR OUTWEIGHT EMPTY TOKEN GIFTS OF CASH FOR NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE BY NORTH KOREANS IN EYES OF PRAGMATIC CEYLONESE. PERHAPS EMBASSY SEOUL MIGHT SUPPORT IN CONVERSATIONS WITH ROK OFFICIAL SUGGESTION THAT ROK AT LEAST STUDY THIS POSSIBILITY.

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